

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6867

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1667

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZI MINISTER NXUMALO MEETS WITH FRELIMO LEADERS

REFS: A. DAR ES SALAAM 2902; B. MBABANE 1538

1. ACCORDING TO FRONT PAGE STORY IN "TIMES OF SWAZILAND"
AUG. 39, SWAZI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY SIMON NXUMALO MET WITH BOTH
SAMORA MACHEL AND MARCELLINO DOS SANTOS DURING HIS LATE AUGUST
VISIT TO DAR ES SALAAM. ARTICLE STATES NXUMALO WAS TOLD THAT
FRELIIMO'S POLICY TOWARD SWAZILAND WOULD BE ONE OF "FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORLINESS" AND THAT SWAZILAND'S ECONOMY NEED HAVE NO FEAR
OF A FRELIIMO TAKEOVER IN MOZAMBIQUE. NXUMALO IS QUOTED AS
SAYING THAT IT IS "RIDICULOUS" TO LABEL FRELIIMO A RACIST
ORGANIZATION. "THEY ARE COMMITTED TO A NON-RACIAL POLICY --
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CREED AND COLOUR HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT." NXUMALO ALSO

REFUTED THE ACCUSATION THAT FRELIMO IS COMMUNIST, SAYING, "I FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO SERIOUSLY REGARD ANY AFRICAN LEADER AS A DOCTRINAIRE COMMUNIST. AFTER ALL, THEY MAY HAVE HAD SUPPLIES FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, BUT THEY PROBABLY ALSO HAD THEM FROM WESTERN NATIONS. I AM NOT DENYING THAT THEY MAY BE AFRICAN SOCIALISTS -- THAT IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT FROM BEING COMMUNISTS."

2. COMMENT. EVEN THOUGH KING SOBHUZA MAY STILL HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT FRELIMO, NXUMALO'S REMARKS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST SOME SEGMENTS OF GOS ARE FINALLY BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT A FRELIMO-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO TAKE OVER IN MOZAMBIQUE VERY SOON AND THAT IT IS IN SWAZILAND'S INTEREST NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THEM UNNECESSARILY.
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